



Tropical Fruit Club of Central Florida Newsletter

March 2010

Officers: President: Pete von Lersner Vice-President: Christine Young
Treasurer: Lincoln Lai Secretary: Bill Saravanja

Committees: Newsletter: Cathy Saravanja Programs: Christine Young, Larry Shatzer, Abe White, Hayri Lawrence, Pam Flesher Library: Jay and Rajani Vaidya
Plant Sale Chairperson: Joann Maynard

2010 Membership Drive: \$15 individual \$20 Family payable to Tropical Fruit Club

Renew at next meeting or send to Lincoln Lai at 688 Carnation Dr., Winter Park, FL 32792
Membership Applications available at club meetings and on line at <http://tropicalfruitclub.org>

Meetings: 3rd Monday 7:00 pm. to 8:45 pm.; March 15th , April 19th , May 17th at Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando

TFC newsletters available on our website

<http://tropicalfruitclub.org>

Please bring items for the tasting and raffle tables; be sure to label items and complete the sign up sheet

Minutes:

Pete von Lersner called the meeting to order and welcomed guests: Jeff Fuller and Jim Ryfa.

Lincoln Lai gave the treasurer's report which was accepted as were the February minutes.

New Business:

Sign up sheets were provided for members to volunteer for the March plant sale – these are for Set Up, Attending the Sale, and Tent and Stands Break-down and Clean Up.

Anyone donating plants for the sale should make sure they are potted with sufficient soil, free of weeds and dead leaves, a label indicating the type of plant, best if stating it's origin, such as a seedling, grafted, etc.

Club wear will be sold at meetings by Eliza Alfonzo. Available are: polo shirts; various color baseball caps, hats & t-shirts; long and short sleeve button down denim shirts. Additional items may be ordered

Upcoming Program :

Gary England, Sumpter County Agricultural Agent, will give a presentation on deciduous fruit that can be grown in Central Florida. After the cold spells we have had, we can do with a few fruit trees that we don't have to worry about surviving cold weather. Be sure to attend as it will be very informative.

Past Program:

Dana M . Venrick from the Extension Faculty of the University of Florida. Dana is based in Deland, Florida and is associated with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. His slide show presentation offered good advice and practices to make plants healthy thus making them more cold hardy and tolerant. The concepts of fortifying the soils with proper nutrition and also foliage spray-on nutrition works better than average granular soil fertilizers, several examples were shown of positive plant recuperation and growth development that have already worked well for Dana. The club expresses its sincere appreciation to Dana Venrick for his interesting presentation. A list of Organic Fertilizers & Pesticide Suppliers compiled by Dana will be posted to the website www.tropicalfruitclub.org (Gallery) for all to peruse.

Upcoming Event in March!

Leu Garden 2010 plant sale - Saturday March 20th and 21st 9 am to 5 pm, set up on Friday March 19th. A special thanks to all who are volunteering to help at the plant sale.

Please follow Joann Maynard's recommendations for plant presentation on donated plants for the sale as follows:

1. Name of the plant/name tag clearly written
2. Nice correct pot size for the plant
3. No weeds in the plant pot
4. Plenty of soil in the pot
5. Trimmed/so it looks nice

Tasting Table Donations

Joann Maynard – banana bread; Bob Burns – tropical jello; Heidi Flinchbaugh – banana nut bread; Goldie Thompson – salsa and all natural corn strips; Bryan and Melinda Cummings – home baked bread and orange honey butter; Wolf von Lersner – edaname salad; Sousan Orlando – bread pudding; Benny Cambare – boiled peanuts; Rajami Vaidya – spinach samosa; Rafael and Betsy Flores – triscuits with blueberry jelly and kisses; Hayri Lawrence – jello jigglers; Gloria Chin – cookies; Phyllis Stephens – brownies and vanilla cookies; Tropical Fruit Club – mango/peach salsa and pita chips

Raffle Table Donations

Heinz Wutscher – pommelos; Lloyd Orlando – sugar cane; Bryant and Melinda Cummings – herbs (rosemary, cilantro and parsley) and vegetables (bell peppers, baby pea pods and broccoli); Lincoln and Daphne Lai – cassava, grapefruits; Pam Flesher – organic green tea and red grapefruits; Abe White – turnips, collards, kale, onions, Chinese cabbage and bok choy

If you didn't sign in, thank you for your contribution.

Editors Note: A special get well message to Doyle Abbott who is undergoing cancer treatments. Doyle and Mae are founding club members and have always contributed and continue to contribute plants for the plant sale, fruits for fund-raising, raffle items and tasty table treats for the club. Everything that have done and continue to do is greatly appreciated. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both.

To share your comments and suggestions please email me at: wsaravanja@gmail.com or tel: 407-365-8875.

Interested in links to other clubs or to extension services, check our website <http://tropicalfruitclub.org> or some older newsletter issues on the website.